GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2366
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2006
OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION VENTURES
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the oil and gas exploration ventures going on in different areas in the country alongwith the agencies involved in exploration;

(b) whether some of the exploration ventures have been dropped or discontinued;

(c) if so the reasons therefor;

(d) the status of exploration in the different areas of Karnataka and Kerala including Cochin High;

(e) whether production of oil, gas or other petroleum products have been started in any of the exploration ventures; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is carrying out exploration in 112 nomination exploration blocks and 46 New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) exploration blocks spread over 18 basins, both onshore and offshore of the country. ONGC is also carrying out exploration for Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in two nomination blocks and seven blocks awarded under two CBM rounds.

Oil India Limited (OIL) is carrying out exploration in 8 Nos. of NELP blocks as consortia partner while in 6 Nos. of NELP blocks, OIL is operator.

In addition to ONGC and OIL, the following companies are also engaged in exploration of oil and gas in the country:-

Company	Number of blocks
RIL	34 (thirty four)
Cairn	6 (six)
GSPC	5 (five)
HOEC	3 (three)
Focus (previously Phoenix)	3 (three)
Premier Oil	2 (two)
Enpro Finance	2 (two)
OAO Gazprom	1 (one)
Canoro	1 (one)
Tullow	1 (one)
Essar	1 (one)
JEPL	2 (two)
Hardy	2 (two)
Niko Resources Ltd.	2 (two)
ENI	2 (two)
Geo Petrol	1 (one)
Geo Global	1 (one)

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. As per the terms of contract laid down in PSC, operator has the option to relinquish/quit the block after completing the minimum work commitment of phase-I or phase-II work and before entry in next phase.

OIL has discontinued exploration activities in block CY-OSN-97/2 offered under NELP-I, in Cauvery basin.

(d) to (f) ONGC has carried out exploration in the off-shore areas off the coast of Karnataka and Kerala including Cochin High in Kerala Konkan Basin. As on 1.4.2006, ONGC has acquired 114207 LKM of 2D (49184 LK in shallow and 65023 LK in deep waters) and 4260 sq km of 3D (1423 sq km in shallow and 2837 sq km in deep waters) seismic data in Kerala Konkan offshore. ONGC does

not hold any acreage in onland area of these States. Till date no commercial discovery of hydrocarbon has been established in this area.

As far as PSC regime is concerned, no exploratory block has been award in the State of Karnataka, Kerala and Cochin High.